

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 6, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1 and 3 are hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 1–21 are pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 13–15, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Related Art (hereinafter "ARA"); claims 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ARA in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,743 to Yeo et al. (hereinafter "Yeo"); and claims 3–7, 9, and 16–19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 3–7, 9, and 16–19 contain allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 13–15, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by ARA. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of independent claim 1 and requests reconsideration. Independent claim 1 is allowable in that it recites "a first controller for selectively applying an input signal and a first supply voltage to a first node arranged between first to third transistors that form a conductive path between a supply line of the input signal and an input line of the first supply voltage," and "a fifth transistor ... wherein the fifth transistor is controlled by a voltage of a third node arranged between the first and second transistors." Nothing in ARA teaches or suggests at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, and its dependent claims 2, 10, 11, 13–15, 20, and 21, are allowable over ARA.

In the Office Action, claims 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ARA in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,743 to Yeo. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claims 8 and 12 are allowable because Yeo fails to cure the deficiency of ARA to teach or suggest "a first controller for selectively applying an input signal and a first supply voltage to a first node arranged between first to third transistors that form a conductive path between a supply line of the input signal and an input line of the first supply voltage," and

“a fifth transistor ... wherein the fifth transistor is controlled by a voltage of a third node arranged between the first and second transistors.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 12, as they depend from independent claim 1, are allowable over any combination of ARA and Yeo.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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